

Monteirist Party

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Is there a difference between anti-science

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and anti-scientism.

As can be seen nowadays, there is a great growth in scientific negativism and anti-science, mainly on the part of Bolsonaro and his supporters. But along with that there is also a very strong growth of scientism and neo-atheism, which are as fanatical as the science deniers and anti-science, but the point is that they call the anti-science crowd anti-scientificists ... So, there is a difference between anti-science and anti-scientism or are both the same?

First of all, we need to explain the difference between science and scientism. Science is the set of systematized knowledge acquired through observation, identification, research and explanation, as occurs with the natural sciences, human sciences, exact sciences, among others. While scientism is a positivist philosophy that affirms the superiority of science over all other forms of human compression of reality, such as religion, metaphysical philosophy, post-positivist philosophy, etc.

With both definitions in mind, let's move on to the concepts of anti-science and anti-scientificism. Anti-science is the opposition to science, to be against the whole set of systematized knowledge that make up the natural, human, exact sciences, etc. While anti-scientificism is to be against the idea that science is superior to other forms of human understanding of reality. Therefore, we see that it is possible to be anti-scientificist and not to be anti-science, which is what most, mainly outside Brazil, of scientists who have serious work and serious research and who are against scientism, just do a little research in English to find the same ones, while the anti-science guys use anti-scientificism as a weapon to spread anti-science, especially here in Brazil. But in practice, we see that anti-science and anti-scientificism are not as mutual as they appear to be. Not everyone who is anti-scientificist is anti-science, but most who are anti-science are purposefully anti-scientificist.

It is necessary to know this difference to know that fighting against scientism does not make you anti-science, but as the anti-science group thinks that everyone who defends science thinks that science is superior to everything, they start to be called anti-scientificist. And you also have to remember that scientism is as bad as religious fanaticism, because it leads to attitudes like religious fanaticism. We can make the analogy that science is religion and that scientism is religious fanaticism, and the gang that is against religion automatically makes itself against religious fanaticism, both of which differ from each other.

Anyway, I hope that this little text on the difference between anti-science and anti-scientificism was useful, it is necessary to be aware of this, so as to avoid calling people who are calmly anti-science anti-scientificist and anti-scientificist people but who support the science of anti-science. And in addition, combating the scientific fanaticism that scientism generates and understanding that science is just another way of having knowledge and that it can have several methods besides the scientific method itself, such as the case of post-positivism, epistemological anarchism, epistemological pluralism and revolutionary science, which are things that scientists despise, showing that even scientists can be a bit of anti-science if it is about overcoming the limitations of science imposed by the scientific method and positivism.

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